

Tuesday, August 30, 2005, reported by the Associated Press

After a FEMA briefing in Washington:

“The federal government and the state governments and the local governments will work side by side to do all we can to help get your lives back in order.”

Wednesday, August 31, 2005, remarks distributed by The White House:

“The folks on the Gulf Coast are going to need the help of this country for a long time. This is going to be a difficult road. The challenges that we face on the ground are unprecedented. But there’s no doubt in my mind we’re going to succeed. ... The country stands with you. We’ll do all in our power to help you.

Friday, September 2, 2005,

Remarks upon departure, distributed by The White House:

“I want to assure the people of the affected areas and this country that we’ll deploy the assets necessary to get the situation under control, to get the help to the people who have been affected, and that we’re beginning the long-term planning to help those who have been displaced, as well as the long-term planning to help rebuild the communities that have been affected.

Friday, September 2, 2005, at a news conference; remarks distributed by The White House

After walking tour of hurricane-damaged neighborhoods in Biloxi, Mississippi:

“And I’ve come down here, one, to take a look at the damage first hand. And I’m telling you, it’s worse than imaginable. And, secondly, to tell the good people of this part of the world that the federal government is going to help. ... We’re going to stabilize the situation, and then get food and medicine ... We’re going to clean all this mess up. The federal government is going to -- will spend money to clean it up. The first down payment will be signed tonight by me as a result of the good work of the Senate and the House, \$10.5 billion. But that’s just the beginning.

“But the people have got to understand that out of this rubble is going to come a new Biloxi, Mississippi. It's hard to envision it right now. When you're standing amidst all that rubble, it's hard to think about a new city. But when you talk to folks that have been through Camille and have seen what happens, and you listen to the spirit of people, you realize, Mr. Mayor, that after a lot of hard work, people are going to be – people will be proud of the effort. And I want to thank you for your leadership here. And Haley, I want to thank you for yours.

“We've got a job to defend this country and the war on terror, and we've got a job to bring aid and comfort to the people of the Gulf Coast, and we'll do both. We've got plenty of resources to do both.

“And the people have just got to know, we've got what it takes to do more than one thing, and we'll secure our country from the terrorists, and we'll help rebuild this part of the world.

“And we're – we just got a lot of work to do. The good news is we know what we're going to do, and we're going to get it done. ... And it's going to take a monumental effort to continue moving forward, but we will. And this is a nation that has done a lot of big things before, and this is going to be one of the biggest ...

“And in terms of the longer term, the government has got the capacity to make low-interest loans and help businesses get back going. And there will be a -- again, once the situation gets stabilized, there will be the appropriate authorities here to start passing out the forms necessary for people to apply for the relief and the help they can get. But the federal government will be providing the temporary housing.

“Mississippi people have got to understand that I know a lot of the focus is on New Orleans, but I'm thinking about Mississippi, as well. I'm not only thinking about coastal Mississippi, I'm thinking about rural Mississippi, places in this part of the state that are remote and don't have electricity. And they just got to know that the governor talked to me about it, and I listened very carefully about the problems facing these good folks. And one of the things we're going to concentrate on is getting these -- getting these electric plants up and running and getting the power to the people so that they can have the electricity necessary to live a more normal life.

Friday, September 2, 2005, remarks distributed by The White House and reported on PRNewswire:

During a briefing in Mobile, Ala.:

“And the federal government’s job is big, and it’s massive, and we’re going to do it. ... We have a responsibility to clean up this mess, and I want to thank Congress for acting as quickly as you did. Step one is to appropriate \$10.5 billion. But I’ve got to warn everybody, that’s just the beginning. That’s a small down payment for the cost of this effort. But to help the good folks here, we need to do it.

Friday, September 2, 2005, reported by CNN

After touring affected areas:

“I’m not going to forget what I’ve seen. I understand the devastation requires more than one day’s attention. It’s going to require the attention of this country for a long period of time.”

Saturday, September 3, 2005, reported by Reuters

Live address from the White House Rose Garden:

“... the federal government will do its part. Where our response is not working, we’ll make it right. Where our response is working, we will duplicate it. We have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters all along the Gulf Coast, and we will not rest until we get this right and the job is done.

Tuesday, September 6, 2005, reported by the Associated Press:

“Bureaucracy is not going to stand in the way of getting the job done for the people.”

Tuesday, September 6, 2005, reported in The Clarion-Ledger

Visiting with state and local officials at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, Mississippi:

“Mississippi is on my mind. We are with you. That is what I want you to know.”

Wednesday, September 7, reported by Reuters:

After visiting with state and local officials at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, Mississippi:

“... we’re here for the long term. ... I understand the damage. I understand how long it’s going to take. And we’re with you. That’s what I want you to know.”

Friday, September 16, 2005, as reported by the Associated Press in The Clarion-Ledger

In a speech from Jackson Square in New Orleans:

“The streets of Biloxi and Gulfport will again be filled with lovely homes and the sound of children playing.” ... The work that has begun in the Gulf Coast region will be one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen.”

Wednesday, October 12, 2005, as reported in The Sun-Herald

After visit to elementary school in Pass Christian:

“... On his eighth visit to South Mississippi, Bush pledged continued federal support ...”